

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 09975 041507Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4674
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 9975

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, MILI, UNSC, IS, LE
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON

1. POL COUNSELOR HAD LONG SCHEDULED LUNCH AUGUST 4 WITH LABOR MEMBER OF THE KNESSET HAIM BAR LEV. UNSURPRISINGLY, SUBJECT OF PROBLEM IN SOUTH LEBANON CAME UP AND BAR LEV WAS RELATIVELY WELL-INFORMED FROM READING ISRAELI AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS-PAPERS.

2. BAR LEV -- FORMERLY CHIEF OF STAFF OF IDF, ARCHITECT OF BAR LEV LINE NEW SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE LABOR PARTY, STRIDENT CRITIC OF THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT, AND ESTIMABLE HUMANIST -- SAID ISRAEL SHOULD NEVER SACRIFICE HADDAD IF HIS DEPARTURE MEANT THE END OF THE ENCLAVES. SOONER OR LATER THE UN WOULD LEAVE AND WHEN IT DID THE PALESTINIANS

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WOULD COME BACK. IF THE CHRISTIANS WERE UNABLE TO DEFEND THEMSELVES, THEY WOULD BE TYRANNIZED BY THE PALESTINIANS OR SLAUGHTERED. WHEN THAT HAPPENED, ISRAEL WOULD ONCE AGAIN BE FACED WITH NOTHING BETWEEN ITS POPULATION ON THE NORTHERN BORDER AND THE PALESTINIANS BUT A FEW KILOMETERS. SUCH A SITUATION WOULD LEAD TO RENEWED PALESTINIAN ROCKET ATTACKS AGAINST ISRAEL AND ANOTHER IDF INVASION OF SOUTH

LEBANON. BAR LEV POINTEDLY SAID THAT WHOEVER
WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE END OF THE CHRISTIAN ENCLAVES
WOULD ALSO BEAR THE GUILT FOR THE REINTRODUCTION OF THE
IDF INTO LEBANON. ALL OUR EFFORTS, HE CONCLUDED, SHOULD
BE A FIND A COMPROMISE SOLUTION WHICH WOULD ALLOW LAF
TO MOVE TO TIMNIN AND NOT UNDERMINE NOW, OR IN THE FUTURE,
THE SELF-PROTECTIVE CAPABILITY OF THE CHRISTIANS.

3. SIMPLE AS THIS SOUNDS, IT SAYS ALL THERE IS TO SAY
ABOUT HOW MOST ISRAELIS IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT
SEE THE CURRENT SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON.
LEWIS

SECRET

NNN

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